

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 641
By Brooks (Knox)

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Private First Class
George Daniel Harrison of Knox County.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the United States Armed Services; and

WHEREAS, one such courageous Volunteer, Private First Class George Daniel Harrison of Knox County, who served with the 293rd Military Police Company, 3rd Military Police Company, 3rd Military Police Battalion (Provisional), 3rd Infantry Division of Fort Stewart, Georgia, lost his life in pursuit of freedom and democracy for the people of Iraq; and

WHEREAS, like thousands of others of this nation's sons and daughters, PFC Harrison did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty and to free the Iraqi people from the chains of injustice; and

WHEREAS, a 2001 graduate of Carter High School, George Daniel Harrison entered the Army on February 19, 2002, for a five-year enlistment. Arriving in Iraq in March of 2004, his unit was stationed near Mosul and scheduled to return home from their tour of duty in March of 2005; and

WHEREAS, PFC Harrison's unit was charged with helping train and acclimate Iraqi police forces, which was recognized by fellow soldiers as hazardous duty with troops under constant ambush from insurgents; and

WHEREAS, this superlative individual won the hearts of friends and fellow soldiers with his infectious laughter and his wonderful ability to help his fellow military policemen break the tension of constant danger with his great sense of humor; and

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2004, he was fatally wounded during a firefight in Mosul, Iraq while behind the machine gun of a Humvee when his convoy rushed to offer suppressing fire to U.S. troops under attack by insurgents; and

WHEREAS, by displaying the patriotism and honor for which he was well known, Private First Class Harrison was the embodiment of the American hero; he believed deeply in America and the virtue of its cause, never hesitating to sacrifice himself to defend his beloved nation, its citizens, or a fellow serviceman; and

WHEREAS, for his heroic actions Private First Class Harrison was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal and the Good Conduct Medal; an eastern redbud tree with a granite marker engraved with his name has been planted in his honor at Fort Stewart at the Army post's Warrior's Walk memorial; and

WHEREAS, a beloved son and brother, Daniel was deeply devoted to his family and will be dearly missed by his parents, Doug and Kim Harrison, and his brother, Joshua; and

WHEREAS, this valiant Tennessean leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, PFC Harrison's dedication to excellence and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers, and his country, as exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, George Daniel Harrison served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and, for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly should pause to remember the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of this exceptional soldier and human being, the late Private First Class George Daniel Harrison, United States Army, whose loss is mourned by a grateful nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Private First Class George Daniel Harrison, a man of impeccable character, limitless courage, and stalwart commitment to the defense of his nation as a member of the United States Army, reflecting fondly upon his bravery and dedication to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and friends of Private First Class George Daniel Harrison.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.